Dillon Wasko

Involvement Project

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When I first heard about the involvement project I was not only excited but very interested in the idea of meeting and learning from a special individual. I knew a few individuals in the TLC program and I felt like I was supposed to be there. When I met with my student I was thoroughly impressed by all of the talents and skills he possessed. He was a very creative person who took an interest in a lot of things I like. He is an art focused open minded individual who strives to be a successful graphic designer. He does not always know what to say to people and he struggles keeping a train of thought going in an advanced conversation. He has difficulties in mathematics, reading, and writing but when given an extended amount of time he tends to be more successful.

The student I was paired up with suffered a traumatic brain injury when he was a little kid. He was shaken by a babysitter and was never the same after. To be honest, if I were to see my student anywhere in public I would have never known he was enlisted in the TLC program. All the talents and abilities to be a successful individual are in place, he just needs more time to complete various activities. His test scores have improved at a very slow rate according to his IEP, but he has a good head on his shoulders and a huge drive to be successful. It is tough to see kids in the program who are not able to achieve what they wish due to genetics, physical, or mental impairments. I feel my student will be able to achieve his dreams by staying focused and working hard to achieve his goals every day. His IEP wants him to improve upon his advanced problem solving skills and to also become a better reader and writer. He needs to become more creative in his writing and he has troubles applying his thoughts and feelings on paper.

I was randomly selected to be paired with my partner and I feel it was a blessing in disguise. I not only met a wonderful person but I met someone who makes me strive harder to be successful in my own life. When you become close to someone who does not have the same opportunity as you I think you realize how great your own life really is. It makes you work harder, push more limits, and forget about the past. Also, when you have family members who will be placed in similar programs you can relate to these individuals. I felt that it is something you have to approach head on. You need to emulsify yourself into the program to obtain a better understanding for the students and the teachers who are in this environment on a daily basis. I gained a lot of respect for the program and the environment as a whole. I was impressed by the enthusiasm throughout the room and how the teachers are able to include each individual. It takes a unique individual to go into special education and they have my uttermost respect.

I gained a lot from this involvement, I feel that I became a more connected individual and I am looking forward to spending more time with the TLC students. I have always been the type of person who has always tried to include others and this was an eye-opening experience for me and it is something I want to continue to do throughout my life. My girlfriend’s dad is the CEO of the Special Olympics of South Dakota and I participated in the 2013 polar plunge in Sioux Falls. By helping to raise money for the Special Olympics I learned the value and the benefits of various activities that effect these individuals.

I loved the opportunity I was given to impact an individual’s life and I am excited to further my experiences with becoming a high school teacher and a coach. I am the type of person who wants to be a role model, who wants to be a leader for individuals, and someone people can come to when times are tough. I have been through a various amount of experiences in my life and I feel like this is the area I need to be in. I thought this class and involvement project was a perfect fit for me and my lifestyle.